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HW

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/632,941	08/01/2003	Shinichi Masuda	1001-018	4992
26272	7590	06/17/2004	EXAMINER	
ROBIN BLECKER & DALEY 2ND FLOOR 330 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10017				BLACKMAN, ROCHELLE ANN J
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2851		

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/632,941	MASUDA, SHINICHI
	Examiner Rochelle Blackman	Art Unit 2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Naruse et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,312,168.

Regarding claims 1, 2, and 9, Naruse discloses a “lens apparatus”(see Figs. 1 and 8-13) comprising: a “lens unit which forms an optical image”(see 54 of Fig. 1 and see Figs. 8 and 10); a “barrier member which can be moved open and close”(see 101 and 102 of Figs. 9 and 11 and 121 and 122 of Figs. 12 and 13); a “driving member that drives the barrier member into an open position by rotating in one direction around an optical axis and drives the barrier member into a close position by rotating in another direction around the optical axis”(see 103 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); an “energizing member which energizes the driving member in the one direction”(see 105 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); and a “barrel which is constructed around the optical axis, wherein the driving member

and the barrel move in the direction of the optical axis relatively"(see 109 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); and wherein the barrel has a "first guide portion that rotates the driving member in the one direction"(see 109c of Figs. 9 and 11 and 123c of Figs. 12 and 13), and a "second guide portion that rotates the driving member in the other direction while resisting an energizing force of the energizing member according to a relative position change with the driving member"(see 109b of Figs. 9 and 11 and 123b of Figs. 12 and 13); and "wherein the driving member drives the barrier member into the open position by rotating in the one direction by the first guide portion when the driving member can not rotate into a position corresponding to the open position of the barrier member by the energizing force of the energizing member"(see "driving member" 103, "barrier member" 101, 102 or 121, 122, and "energizing member" 105 relative to each other in Figs. 9 and 11-13); "wherein the barrel has a third guide portion that guides the driving member to the second guide portion according to the relative position change of the driving member"(see 109d, 109e, and 109f of Figs. 9 and 11-13); a "camera comprising: the lens apparatus and an image pickup device which receives light passing through the lens apparatus and photoelectrically converts an image formed by the lens apparatus"(see 150 of Fig. 1).

Regarding claims 3, 4, and 10, Naruse discloses a "lens apparatus"(see Figs. 1 and 8-13) comprising: a "lens unit which forms an optical image"(see 54 of Fig. 1 and see Figs. 8 and 10); a "barrier member which can be moved open and close"(see 101 and 102 of Figs. 9 and 11 and 121 and 122 of Figs. 12 and 13); a "driving member that drives the barrier member into an open position by rotating in one direction around an

optical axis and drives the barrier member into a close position by rotating in another direction around the optical axis"(see 103 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); a "resistive member which impedes the rotation of the driving member"(see 105 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); and a "barrel which is constructed around the optical axis, wherein the driving member and the barrel move in the direction of the optical axis relatively"(see 109 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); and wherein the barrel has a "first guide portion that rotates the driving member in the one direction"(see 109c of Figs. 9 and 11 and 123c of Figs. 12 and 13) and a "second guide portion that rotates the driving member in the other direction, according to a relative position change with the driving member"(see 109b of Figs. 9 and 11 and 123b of Figs. 12 and 13); "wherein the barrel has a third guide portion that guides the driving member to the second guide portion according to the relative position change with the driving member"(see 109d, 109e, and 109f of Figs. 9 and 11-13); a "camera comprising: the lens apparatus and an image pickup device which receives light passing through the lens apparatus and photoelectrically converts an image formed by the lens apparatus"(see 150 of Fig. 1).

Regarding claims 5 and 6, Naruse discloses a "lens apparatus"(see Figs. 1 and 8-13) comprising: a "lens unit which forms an optical image"(see 54 of Fig. 1 and see Figs. 8 and 10); a "lens holding member which holds the lens unit and can be moved in the direction of the optical axis"(see 110 of Figs. 8 and 10); an "energizing member which energizes the lens holding member in the one direction around the optical axis"(see 105 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); a "supporting member that has a cam portion that converts the rotation of the lens holding member around the optical axis into motion in

the direction of the optical axis, and supports the lens holding member”(see 108 of Figs. 8 and 10); and a “barrel which is constructed around the optical axis, wherein the lens holding member and the barrel move in the direction of the optical axis relatively”(see 109 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); and wherein the barrel has a “first guide portion rotating the lens holding member in the one direction”(see 109c of Figs. 9 and 11 and 123c of Figs. 12 and 13), and a “second guide portion that rotates the lens holding member in the other direction around the optical axis, according to a relative position change with the supporting member”(see 109b of Figs. 9 and 11 and 123b of Figs. 12 and 13); and “wherein the lens holding member rotates a predetermined amount in the one direction by the first guide portion and drives in the direction of the optical axis by the cam portion when the lens holding member can not rotate the predetermined amount in the one direction by an energizing force of the energizing member”(see “lens holding member” 110, “first guide portion” 109c or 123c, and “energizing member” 105 relative to each other in Figs. 8-13); “wherein the barrel has a third guide portion that guides the lens holding member to the second guide portion according to the relative position change with the supporting member”(see 109d, 109e, and 109f of Figs. 9 and 11-13).

Regarding claims 7 and 8, Naruse discloses a “lens apparatus”(see Figs. 1 and 8-13) comprising: a “lens unit which forms an optical image”(see 54 of Fig. 1 and see Figs. 8 and 10); a “lens holding member which holds the lens unit”(see 110 of Figs. 8 and 10); a “supporting member that has a cam portion that converts the rotation of the lens holding member around the optical axis into motion in the direction of the optical axis, and supports the lens holding member”(see 108 of Figs. 8 and 10); a “resistive

member which impedes the rotation of the lens holding member around the optical axis"(see 105 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); and a "barrel which is constructed around the optical axis, wherein the lens holding member and the barrel move in the direction of the optical axis relatively"(see 109 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); and wherein the barrel has a "first guide portion that rotates the lens holding member in one direction around the optical axis"(see 109c of Figs. 9 and 11 and 123c of Figs. 12 and 13) and a "second guide portion that rotates the lens holding member in another direction around the optical axis, according to a relative position change with the supporting member"(see 109b of Figs. 9 and 11 and 123b of Figs. 12 and 138); "wherein the barrel further has a third guide portion that guides the lens holding member to the second guide portion according to the relative position change with the supporting member"(see 109d, 109e, and 109f of Figs. 9 and 11-13).

Regarding claims 11 and 12, Naruse discloses a "lens apparatus"(see Figs. 1 and 8-13) comprising: a "lens unit which forms an optical image"(see 54 of Fig. 1 and see Figs. 8 and 10); a "barrier member which can be moved open and close"(see 101 and 102 of Figs. 9 and 11 and 121 and 122 of Figs. 12 and 13); a "driving member that drives the barrier member into an open position by rotating in one direction around an optical axis, and drives the barrier member into a close position by rotating in another direction around the optical axis"(see 103 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); an "energizing member which energizes the driving member in the one direction"(see 105 of Figs. 9 and 11-13); and a "barrel which is constructed around the optical axis"(see 109 of Figs. 9 and 11-13) and has a "first guide portion and a second guide portion wherein the driving member

and the barrel move in the direction of the optical axis relatively"(for "first guide portion", see 109c or 123c , and for "second guide portion", see 109b or123b of Figs. 9 and 11-13); "wherein the driving member makes contact with the second guide portion by receiving an energizing force of the energizing member with the relative movement of the driving member and the barrel; and wherein the first guide portion is formed along the second guide portion"(see "driving member" 103, "energizing member" 105, "barrel" 109, "first guide portion" 109c or 123c, and "second guide portion" 109b or 123b, relative to each other in Figs. 9 and 11-13); a "camera comprising: the lens apparatus and an image pickup device which receives light passing through the lens apparatus and photoelectrically converts an image formed by the lens apparatus"(see 150 of Fig. 1).

Conclusion

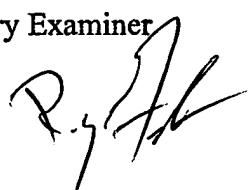
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rochelle Blackman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2113. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RB

Rodney Fuller
Primary Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Fuller".